
REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, and 25-47 are amended, no claims are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-50 are now pending in this application. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification as originally filed. No new matter is introduced. Applicant respectfully requests examination of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks that follow.

Response to Restriction Requirement

As a result of the amendments provided herein, claims 25-39 (Group I) and claims 40-50 (Group II) depend from independent claims in Group I (claims 1-24). Accordingly, in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed 24 March 2004, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the restriction requirement and examine claims 1-50. However, if the Examiner maintains the restriction requirement, Applicant elects claims 1-24 for prosecution. Applicant submits that claims 25-35 and 40-45 are linked to claim 8 from which they depend, and claims 36-39 and claims 46-50 are linked to claim 1 from which they depend. Thus, on allowance of claims 1 and claim 8, rejoinder of claims 25-50 is proper. Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce non-elected claims, if not rejoined, in divisional applications at a later date.

In the Claims

Claims 1 and 8 are amended for clarity.

Claim 25 is amended to depend on claim 8. Claims 26-35 are amended in light of the amendments to claim 25 from which they originally depend.

Claim 36 is amended to depend on claim 1. Claims 37-39 are amended in light of the amendments to claim 36 from which they originally depend.

Claim 40 is amended to depend on claim 8. Claims 41-45 are amended in light of the amendments to claim 40 from which they originally depend.

Claim 46 is amended to depend on claim 1. Claims 47 is amended in light of the amendments to claim 36 from which it depends.

Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of the claims 1-50.

Conclusion

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's Representatives at the below-listed telephone number if there are any questions regarding this Response or if prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM S. WOODS

By his Representatives,

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.
P.O. Box 2938
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 371-2157

Date 26 APRIL 2004 By David R Cochran
David R Cochran
Reg. No. 46,632

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 26 day of April, 2004.

Paula Sieny
Name

Paula Sieny
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